

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01356 161322Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /030 W  
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R 161015Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1392  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1356

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, NP, IN  
SUBJECT: NEPALESE PRESS COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S  
STATEMENT ON SIKKIM

1. AMONG THE SEVERAL NEPALESE NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAVE  
COMMENTED ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S STATEMENT THAT  
INDIA'S ANNEXATION OF SIKKIM WAS A WRONG STEP WHICH  
HAD WORRIED MANY OF INDIA'S NEIGHBORS, OPINION HAS  
BEEN UNANIMOUS THAT DESAI'S STATEMENT NOT ONLY JUSTIFIES  
THE APPREHENSION THAT WAS FELT BY NEPAL AT THE TIME BUT  
ALSO CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR CONTINUING SUSPICIONS OF  
INDIAN INTENTIONS. THE GIST OF EDITORIAL COMMENT IS  
THAT DESAI'S ADMISSION OF ERROR ON INDIA'S PART WITHOUT  
TAKING STEPS TO RECTIFY IT CONSTITUTES, AS ONE PAPER PUTS  
IT, "A GLARING EXAMPLE OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE WORDS  
AND DEEDS OF INDIA".

2. THE STRONGEST AND PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT REACTION  
HAS COME FROM HIMALI BELA (AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPER BE-  
LONGING TO THE KING'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, KHADGA BIKRAM  
SHAH) WHICH TERMS THIS ANNEXATION OF SIKKIM "THE  
MOST SHAMEFUL POLITICAL ACT MODERN HISTORY HAS EVER  
SEEN". NOTING THAT DESAI "MIGHT HAVE UNDERSTOOD BEFORE-  
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HAND THAT ONCE HE TOOK SUCH A POSITION, EVEN IF IN A  
PERSONAL CAPACITY, IT WOULD BE REGARDED BY NEIGHBORS  
AS A VINDICATION OF THEIR STAND AND THEY WOULD THEN  
EXPECT HIM TO INITIATE MEASURES TOWARD RECTIFYING  
THAT MISTAKE", THE EDITORIAL SAYS DESAI "HAS  
PRESENTED A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF INDIAN LEADERS WHO SOUND  
SANCTIMONIOUS WHILE TALKING ABOUT NATIONAL AND INTER-

NATIONAL POLITICS BUT WHO SELDOM PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "MR. DESAI'S REMARKS ABOUT SIKKIM PRESENT A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE WIDE GAP BETWEEN PRACTICE AND PRECEPT FOR WHICH INDIAN POLITICAL LEADERS ARE KNOWN, SO FAR AS THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDIA'S NEIGHBORS IS CONCERNED. INDIA'S NEIGHBORS SHOULD REMAIN ALL THE MORE VIGILANT IN VIEW OF THE RENEWED EXPRESSION OF THIS TRAIT OF INDIAN POLITICIANS".

3. COMMENT: SIKKIM CONTINUES TO STRIKE A VERY SENSITIVE NERVE IN NEPAL. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL PRESS HAS NOT COMMENTED ON DESAI'S STATEMENT (PERHAPS IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING SIGNATURE OF THE TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATIES), THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE OPINION WHICH HAS APPEARED IS WIDELY SHARED IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES.  
HECK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRIME MINISTER, ANNEXATION, SPEECHES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** NEPALESE PRESS COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S STATEMENT ON SIKKIM  
**TAGS:** PEPR, NP, IN, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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